



News Release

Pat Quinn, Governor

Jay Rowell, Director

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Employment Security Offices Closed to Honor President Holidays on Feb. 12 and Feb. 18 *Customers Should Certify; Services Available on Internet*

CHICAGO - Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) offices will be closed Tuesday, Feb. 12 and Monday, Feb. 18 in observance of state and federal holidays. Feb. 12 is a state holiday honoring President Abraham Lincoln. Feb. 18 is a federal and state holiday honoring President George Washington. It also is referred to as Presidents' Day. Offices will re-open Wednesday, Feb. 13 and Tuesday, Feb. 19, respectively. Office hours are 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Although IDES offices will be closed, services will be available at www.ides.illinois.gov. Individuals can file for first-time unemployment benefits, certify for benefits which is necessary to receive payment, and switch that method of payment to direct deposit. Because Feb. 18 is a federal banking holiday, the availability of some benefit payments might be delayed. The IDES does not determine federal banking holidays.

IDES customers also can use the website to manage their benefit payments. For benefit payments, the Department encourages direct deposit. Direct deposit is a simple, smart and secure way to receive benefits. Debit cards also are available. There are no fees associated with a debit card at point-of-service counters that accept MasterCard, such as grocery stores, drug stores and convenience stores. Cash is available after qualifying purchases. Fees likely will be assessed with out-of-network ATM machines.

Career planning, training and job placement assistance also is available at the website. The services encourage individuals to assess their current skills and identify the training or education needed to augment those skills so they can find meaningful work. The Department also administers tax credits and bonding programs that reward employers who hire specific workers, such as military Veterans. The Department hosts workshops to help employers better understand how insurance claims are evaluated, what is required to successfully challenge a claim, and other services to help businesses evaluate current and future growth potential.

IDES supports economic stability by administering unemployment benefits, collecting business contributions to fund those benefits, connecting employers with qualified job seekers, and providing economic information to assist career planning and economic development. It does so at offices across the state, including Illinois workNet Centers.

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